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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

9th May.—Nearly 400 planes took part in heavy Royal Air Force raids on Hamburg, Bremen, Berlin, Emden and the Poznan region of Poland. A German escort vessel was set on fire off the Norwegian Coast.

The German air force lost 24 planes in night raids on Britain.

10th May.—The Royal Air Force made concentrated and destructive raids on Mannheim and Ludwigshaven. Berlin, Calais, Ostend, Boulogne and other places were also bombed.

11th May.—In an indiscriminate enemy raid on London, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Hall, and the British Museum suffered damage, along with hospitals and churches. A record total of 33 Nazi planes was shot down.

The Royal Air Force retaliated with another heavy raid on Hamburg, Bremen, Emden, Berlin and Rotterdam were also bombed.

12th May.—The Germans lost nine planes in widespread raids on England.

A communiqué issued from 10, Downing Street, stated that on the night of May 10–11, Rudolf Hess (Hitler's Deputy and Nazi No. 3) had landed by parachute near Glasgow after the Messerschmitt war-plane which he was piloting had crashed; and that he had been taken to a Glasgow hospital with a broken ankle. The Nazi Party hinted that Hess was suffering from "mental disorder."

The Royal Air Force raided Hamburg and Bremen, in which heavy-weight high-explosives were used.

13th May.—Enemy air activity over England was on a slight scale.

The Royal Air Force renewed the attack on Rhineland, Mannheim being the principal target. Ports in Occupied France were also raided.

14th May.—The Royal Air Force attacked the Island of Heligoland while German night raids on Britain appeared to be waning with the moon.

15th May.—British bombers attacked and set on fire three enemy supply-ships in an escorted convoy off the Frisian Isles.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

9th May.—Rome admitted that Benghazi had been bombed by British Naval and Air forces. Two enemy supply ships were destroyed.

Abyssinian Patriot forces took Morchow, 18 miles from Toselli Pass in the Amba Alagi sector, where the Indian forces advancing from the north were fighting the Italians.

A severe sandstorm held up operations in Tobruk but British mechanized forces continued vigorous raiding activity in Sollum area.

Three Nazi bombers were destroyed in an unsuccessful attack on shipping off Valetta harbour.

10th May.—Seven enemy dive-bombers were shot down when British Naval forces in Western Mediterranean were attacked by Axis aircraft. The ships sustained no damage.

11th May.—British patrols captured a number of prisoners in the Tobruk and Sollum sectors.

Indian troops advancing from the North captured two vital points in the Amba Alagi region, taking 150 prisoners.

The Royal Air Force made continual attacks on aerodromes in Cyrenaica and Abyssinia.

Benghazi was again bombarded by the British Navy.

Property was slightly damaged when enemy aircraft raided the Suez Canal for the third successive night.

12th May.—Indian troops captured Gumsa in their march on Amba Alagi.

British mechanised patrols surprised and captured an enemy detachment at Tobruk; they continued their raids in the Sollum area. The Royal Air Force raided Tripoli and Benghazi and aerodromes in Sicily.

13th May.—A five-column thrust by the Germans in the Sollum sector was beaten off by the British.

14th May.—The Germans were beaten back to their original positions south and west of Sollum and harried continuously by British mechanised patrols.

It was announced that 16 enemy aircraft were shot down by the British Fleet in the Mediterranean from May 6 to 12.

15th May.—The Royal Air Force carried out extensive raids in Libya and Abyssinia.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

9th May.—President Roosevelt asked Congress for an appropriation of 61,477,750 dollars in order, among other things, to construct 149 new airports and enlarge 20 now under construction.

The United States Maritime Commission announced the inauguration of a service to the Red Sea area with ships of United States registry and an additional service to China.

11th May.—It was revealed that a United States Naval Squadron was stationed in the Indian Ocean to guard the Red Sea route, to prevent German and Japanese shipping co-operating, and to relieve the British Navy of additional duties.

12th May.—It was learned in Washington that the Government planned to use the foreign ships taken over by United States to carry supplies to Britain through the combat areas.

Mr. Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, had an hour's talk with President Roosevelt at Washington.

13th May.—Col. Knox, United States Navy Secretary, said "America must choose now . . . to oppose the aggressor with enough force to scare him off or defeat him."

GREECE AND ITALY

9th May.—The puppet Government in Greece arrested General Papagos, former Greek Commander-in-Chief, and other members of the Greek administration "for having instigated war against Germany."

The University of Rome was closed as the result of anti-German demonstrations by the students.

10th May.—A Rome communique gave the following Italian casualty figures for April: Killed, 5,894; wounded, 17,976 and missing, 75,058.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

9th May.—British troops occupied the plateau overlooking the Habbaniyah aerodrome in Iraq and the Royal Air Force raided the rebels' principal air-base, starting a huge conflagration. The British occupied Rutbah aerodrome.

Sayid Shaukat, Minister of Defence in Rashid Ali's Cabinet, who had travelled to Ankara, had a talk with Turkish Ministers.

10th May.—Serbian guerilla fighters were reported to be waging relentless war on German troops in Yugoslavia.

The Iraqi rebels admitted withdrawal "to better positions owing to continuous and strong British air attacks".

It was announced that Lieut-Gen. Maitland Wilson had assumed command of the British forces in Palestine and Transjordan.

11th May.—King Ibn Saud of Arabia was stated to have informed the Iraqi usurper, Rashid Ali, that he was unable to offer any kind of assistance to the anti-British movement in Iraq, and also to have refused protection to Rashid.

The Royal Air Force bombed rebel barracks at Mosul and other places.

12th May.—The Tass Agency announced the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet and Iraq but the Moscow Wireless rebuked Rashid Ali and his followers for being "instruments of foreign powers".

The British occupied Fort Rutbah and generally conducted mopping-up operations.

13th May.—Ankara reports stated that Rashid Ali's terms for Turkish mediation between his followers and Britain were "contrary to the terms of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty" and not likely to be acceptable to Britain.

14th May.—Mr. Eden stated in the Commons that the Imperial Forces at Basra were being rapidly reinforced.

The German Ambassador to Turkey had an interview with President Inenu; the Turkish Foreign Minister was also present.

Ankara reports stated that Von Papen had conveyed an assurance to the Turkish President that Germany would not ask Turkey for the right to send troops across Turkish territory.

15th May.—Mr. Eden announced in the Commons that the French authorities were allowing the Germans to use Syrian aerodromes as "stepping-stones" for flights to Iraq and that Britain would take action against German aircraft in Syrian aerodromes.

It was officially announced in Cairo that a certain number of German planes arrived in Iraq, bringing Axis propagandists, agitators, etc., in response to an urgent appeal from Rashid Ali.

SHIPPING.

9th May.—An Order-in-Council said that Mr. F. G. Leathers, new British Minister of Shipping and Minister of Transport, would henceforth be known as Minister for War Transport.

A German armoured merchant cruiser was sunk in the Indian Ocean by H.M.S. "Cornwall." The British cruiser rescued 27 British

seamen held aboard the raider; and 53 of the German crew who survived were taken prisoner.

British and Allied shipping losses during April were officially announced to be as follows:—British, 60 ships of 293,089 tons; Allied, 43 ships of 189,473 tons; neutral, three ships of 5,562 tons; a total of 106 ships of 488,124 tons.

The enemy lost 600,000 tons of shipping during the last six weeks; and 2,912,000 tons since the war began: Germany 17,56,000 tons; Italy, 1,090,000 tons; and tonnage useful to the enemy 66,000.

11th May.—A German merchant vessel, which had been acting as supply ship for a raider, and a Norwegian tanker, captured by that raider, were intercepted in the Indian Ocean and captured by the Australian cruiser Canberra and the New Zealand cruiser Leander. A number of Norwegians and Chinese were rescued and 17 German officers and 47 ratings were captured.

12th May.—The American Bureau of Shipping disclosed that 80 per cent of the total shipping tonnage so far lost by the Allies was at present under contract or construction in the United States.

13th May.—The German Radio warned ships against navigating in certain "dangerous" areas in the Red Sea.

THE FAR EAST

10th May.—A new Pan-American Airways Clipper Service was successfully inaugurated with the arrival of the first plane from San Francisco in Singapore.

Japanese aircraft raided Chungking for the second night in succession. The British Ambassador's house was damaged and he had a narrow escape.

11th May.—Japanese forces launched a drive against Chinese troops holding out in the Chung Tiao mountains. The Japanese claimed the capture of Shaoyuan.

The Chief of Staff of the Dutch East Indies announced an acceleration of defence precautions.

12th May.—Marshal Chiang Kai-shek declared "So long as friendly powers send arms and give economic support to China, they can safely leave Japan to China without sending their navy or troops to China."

The Japanese claimed to have cut another route for supplies to the Chinese Government by capturing the towns of Waichow and Poklo, south-east of Canton.

The Japanese Army's organ, the *Kokumin*, expressed Japan's concern in the event of Germany allowing a free hand to Russia in Asia in exchange for larger supplies.

The Dutch Foreign Minister, Dr. Van Kleffens, declared at Sydney that the Netherlands was determined to fight for the common cause in the Pacific.

The United States House of Representatives' Military Affairs Committee approved legislation designed to stop supplies to the Axis powers of war materials produced in the Philippines.

13th May.—The Japanese claimed to have occupied the Chinese stronghold of Tungfeng in South Shansi.

14th May.—Hundreds of thousands of Chinese and Japanese troops were locked in furious fighting in four Chinese Provinces.

Mr. Eden said in the House of Commons that he was taking a firm line with Japan with regard to the treatment of British interests in China.

Large numbers of troops arrived in Singapore from Britain, consisting of British Army, Navy and Air Force reinforcements.

15th May.—The Chinese forces in Southern China were reported to be holding key positions intact.

VICHY

13th May.—Hitler was reported to have granted an interview to Admiral Darlan in the presence of the German Foreign Minister.

14th May.—The Vichy Cabinet approved Hitler's terms to France.

It was revealed in the Commons that Germany was sending small torpedo-boats through France to the Mediterranean—*via* the Rhone to Marseilles and the sea.

15th May.—Marshal Petain, in a broadcast, said that he approved the understanding reached by Admiral Darlan with Hitler.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

9th May.—The Soviet withdrew diplomatic recognition from the Norwegian, Belgian and Yugoslav Legations in Moscow as their countries "are no longer sovereign States."

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.).

9th May.—A Lisbon communiqué announced the reinforcement of three Portuguese islands in the Atlantic "as an affirmation of Portuguese sovereignty." The communiqué also stated that assurances had been received from United States that Portuguese sovereignty over these islands would be respected 'absolutely.'

10th May.—The appointment of Civil Governors for Madrid and other important centres was announced at the Spanish capital, indicating that General Franco was strengthening his position *vis-a-vis* his pro-Axis brother-in-law and Falangist leader, Serrano Suner.

12th May.—General Franco issued a number of decrees, making important changes in high posts in the Spanish Army.

13th May.—Swedish anti-aircraft guns drove back two German planes flying over Swedish territory.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 6th May 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over N.W. European waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 30, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on wireless station on Norwegian island; shipping off Dutch coast. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at **Kiel**; objectives in Berlin; factories at Hamburg; docks at Emden.	1 day bomber.	..
May 1, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on **Den Helder** (submarine base, docks, power station, troops); troops on Texel Island; oil stores at Vlaardingen; shipping off Dutch coast (5,000-ton tanker damaged). R.A.F. night bomber raid on Brest (battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*).	1 day bomber.	..
May 2, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Dutch coast (5,000-ton merchantmen left sinking). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Hamburg** (docks, factories); docks at Emden; oil stores at Rotterdam. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	4 bombers.	1 night bomber.
May 3, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping in North Sea and English Channel (500-ton, 2,000-ton and one unspecified merchantman sunk; 5,000-ton merchantman believed sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Cologne** (factories, river docks, railways); industrial objectives at Essen and Dusseldorf; oil stores at Rotterdam; oil stores and an aerodrome in S. Norway; aerodrome at Le Touquet; invasion bases at Cherbourg and Boulogne; naval base at Brest (battleships, docks). R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	2 day bombers.	1 night bomber.
May 4, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping (1 patrol-boat sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on docks at Egersund and Stavanger; naval bases at **Brest** (battleships, docks, warehouses) and St. Nazaire; invasion bases at Rotterdam, Antwerp, Cherbourg, Le Havre; aerodrome at Querqueville (France); convoy in Skaggerak (1 merchantman hit); shipping off Norwegian coast (3,000-ton merchantman hit) and French coast (1,500-ton merchantman hit). R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	2 day fighters (pilots safe).	—
May 5, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping. R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Mannheim**; Frankfort-on-Main; aerodromes near Stavanger; naval base at St. Nazaire; invasion bases at Cherbourg and Boulogne. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	..	1 night bomber.
May 6, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off German and Dutch coasts (1 patrol-boat sunk, 1 set on fire). R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Hamburg**; invasion base at Le Havre and other objectives on occupied coasts; shipping off Frisian Islands (5,000-ton merchantman sunk).	3 aircraft.	..

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The world has been taken aback by the report of the landing of Herr Hess, Hitler's deputy in Scotland, on Saturday night last. It is bound to have serious repercussions on world politics. It was a deliberately planned escape and, contrary to German broadcasts, Herr Hess is sane and healthy.

The Suez Canal has been attacked so far on two occasions and some damage has been done to telegraph and telephone lines and other targets, but there were no casualties.

The British shipping losses in April were 106 ships of 488,124 tons, but according to a New York radio, 80 per cent of the tonnage so far lost is being supplied by contract or construction in United States shipping yards. The figures are 800 ships of more than five million tons on May 1. It may well be remebered that the figures of losses are well below the 1917 level. The figures of losses include losses in the campaign of evacuation from Greece. The Battle of the Atlantic is receiving increased attention and the replacement of the patrol system by the convoy system, when it takes place, should mean a considerable improvement in the situation so far as the Battle of the Atlantic is concerned.

There are reports of an agreement between the Vichy and German Governments. Germany has reduced her daily demand for occupation expenses, has promised to liberalise the demarcation between occupied and unoccupied France and possibly also some French prisoners will be released; but what has Admiral Darlan who has seen Hitler a few days ago given in return? This is still a mystery. But it is believed that German torpedo boats are proceeding to the Mediterranean through the Rhone in France. Mr. Eden, speaking about France's collaboration with Germany, said in the House of Commons on Wednesday last that he found it difficult to believe that, helpless though they may be to prevent spoliation of their resources, the French will be " so false to their noble tradition as to work actively, of their own free will, for the German cause and thus prolong the period of their own suffering and postpone the day of their own liberation." It has now been definitely established that the Petain Government have allowed the use by Hitler of aerodromes in Syria. Movements of German planes are reported. Orders have been issued to the R.A.F. to take action against such aircraft which use these places as stepping stones for proceeding to Iraq.

So far as the Mediterranean is concerned, the British Navy is now engaged in preventing as far as possible supplies reaching Tripoli from Sicily and southern Italy. Heavy attacks were made on British naval units by enemy aircraft, but 16 enemy machines were brought down and 6 badly damaged.

It is now revealed that the total British troops sent to France up to June 1940 were 437,000 of which 384,000 were brought away and 40,000 were left as prisoners. The corresponding figures for Norway were 23,800, 22,600 and 95.

An announcement which is satisfactory is that a German merchant vessel, which has been acting as supply ship for a raider and a Norwegian tanker captured by the raider have been intercepted by the Australian cruiser Canberra and the New Zealand cruiser Leander.

In North Africa, in the Sollum area, the Imperial Forces hurled back enemy forces, advancing eastwards in five columns. It is stated that Germans are experiencing great difficulties in securing supplies of water, food and ammunition.

Large numbers of British troops of all arms, army, navy and air, have arrived at Singapore and American freighters are unloading war rial from America.

HERR HESS ARRIVES IN SCOTLAND.

Herr Hess, Hitler's deputy, has considered it the better part of valour to seek refuge in Great Britain. He boarded a Messerschmitt, equipped himself with petrol and a parachute and flew away in the direction of Scotland, apparently to land near the house of a friend whom he knew. This he did on the night of Saturday, the 10th May. He had never flown in a Messerschmitt before nor had he landed by a parachute. Well might Herr Hess desire to possess the parachute because it saved him his life! Herr Hess was the third in command in Germany, a devoted friend of Herr Hitler, one who took to dictation part of *Mein Kampf*

and reported faithfully to the Fuehrer the situation in countries which that dictator wanted to invade. He was high in favour, popular among Germans and a trusted leader. Why did he then escape from Germany?

German sources are, as usual, contradictory in assigning the reasons for this remarkable flight. That it was carefully done with the help of a map that he landed within a short distance of his destination are true. His destination was Dungavel, the estate of the Duke of Hamilton, whom he had seen once or twice before and with whom he wanted to correspond unsuccessfully. Within 48 hours of his landing he did see the Duke who flew to Glasgow. But the Nazis say that Herr Hess was insane, that he was not normal and that he had mental disorder. As a matter of fact, first reports emanating from Germany stated that he "either jumped out of the plane or met with an accident." The German radio in another broadcast said that he was subject to hallucination and that he had suffered increasingly in a physical sense and took refuge in various forms of hypnotism, astrology, etc. That is why, it is said, he was progressively relieved of responsibilities. The papers that he has left behind, it has again been said, indicated that he had a delusion that he could achieve through his English acquaintances an understanding between Germany and Britain. He wanted to save the British Commonwealth! Another radio broadcast stated that he had been deliberately tricked by the English. All these are flights of German imagination. A man who had so precisely and deliberately planned his escape and who has been certified to be absolutely sane by English doctors cannot have any crack in the brain. The only reasonable conclusion, therefore, is that the differences between him, an idealist who thought that peace with England and anti-Bolshevism were the corner-stones of Nazi policy, and the Fuehrer have been developing to a point when Herr Hess thought that his further stay would mean either his being sent to a concentration camp or to a blood-bath. It is thought by some that the whole episode is a Nazi trick, but this conjecture is considered to be quite wrong, though Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour, does not believe that Hitler did not know that Hess was coming to England. Hess, he added, was not the man he would ever negotiate with. On the other hand, Dr. Benes believes that the moral effect on Germany's war position must be disastrous. Germans are naturally nervous about the disclosures which may be made by Herr Hess though they summon up sufficient courage to say that his action does not involve any change in Hitler's plans. There can be no doubt that considerable importance attaches to the fact that a man so high, so much in the confidence of the Fuehrer, should have preferred, as Mr. Duff Cooper said, "to leave that unhappy and miserable country and fly at tremendous risk to himself in order to land on what is still a country of the free." It is really significant that he did not land in a neutral country because he apprehended that a reward would be placed on his head and that he would be very unsafe. Herr Hess is now in hospital "somewhere" in England, near London, he is well cared for and the trouble in his ankle is being attended to. Meanwhile, those responsible for his flight are being arrested in Germany and the world may hear of executions as a result of this 'get-away.' That his plane did not crash as is reported in Germany and that it was deliberately sent down by Herr Hess to its fate is made clear by a statement which he has made "The real crash" as the *Baltimore Sun* says "was, when he crashed into headlines." Meanwhile, he is reading and—what should undoubtedly be embarrassing to Hitler—writing! And writing what? About the sufferings of Germany and the civilian population? About the doings of the Royal Air Force. Herr Hess appears to have hinted at some of these things to his saviour, Ploughman Maclean. What a revealing document would the effort of Herr Hess be! It would decidedly be a best seller. But all this is wishful thinking. And this *Review*, at any rate, should not indulge in speculation! We should await the promised statement of Mr. Churchill and *it will* assuredly be **revealing!**

SOME STATEMENTS OF HERR HESS

Now that Herr Hess has "crashed" into the headlines, the following extracts from his speeches will be read with some interest:—

"In the book of history of Adolf Hitler's movement(!) the names of these thirteen martyrs (the originally forsworn murderers of Dollfuss) will be recorded in the first rank of those who gave their lives. Our final success has sanctified the sacrifice of their lives. To-day the achievement of these heroes is celebrated by the whole of Germany."

(24th July 1938).

"We remember them in memory of the day on which these thirteen of our best comrades had to suffer ignominious death on the gallows. Wherever in all the world National Socialists march, these dead comrades march with us in our ranks."

(24th July 1938.).

"Can a Government be called Christian when it torments human beings in concentration camps?"

(7th April 1938).

"Europe and the whole world owe a debt of gratitude to the Fuehrer, for it was only due to his good nerves and boundless love of peace that a catastrophe was avoided. There are others, of course, whose nerves are not so good, because their consciences are not so clear. What, indeed, can a good conscience be based on, when you remember that multitude of broken pledges, of unfulfilled treaties, and unkept promises?"

(12th June 1938).

"We believe in eternal justice which cannot permit a new war to be brought upon the world, a horrible war with unthinkable consequences, that would turn prosperous countries into hopeless deserts and slaughter millions of men, a war that would know but one victor : Bolshevism."

(25th July 1938).

"A defenceless country means a danger to peace. Its defencelessness tempts only too easily to riskless 'rambles' of other armies. When a single nation is defenceless among heavily armed nations, this can tempt ambitious men to gather easy laurel, and unscrupulous Governments to divert their own people by involving it in war."

(9th July 1934).

"The German theatre and the German film have never been so excellent as they are now without the Jews."

(7th April 1938).

"Not the so-called democracies, not the countries with the solemn promises about self-determination, no; we the so-called dictatorship, the country with the authoritarian regime, we have made the will of a free nation law and thereby we have done the most democratic deed."

(29th August 1938).

"The nations are fortunate because the Fuehrer of Germany does not allow himself to be provoked. In supreme tranquillity the Fuehrer does what he must do for his nation, under the banner of peace. For he is working for the peace of Europe."

(25th July 1938).

"The last weeks again have shown how good the German leadership is! The quality of this leadership has stood the test as well in action as in inactivity! This inactivity, this passive resistance against provocation from outside, has saved the peace of Europe. In other capitals the mobilization orders were already lying on the desks."

(19th June 1938).

"Through his work this man (Hitler) has at last given a meaning to millions of German and Austrian dead. He has transformed the complete breakdown of a nation into victory."

(25th August 1938).

"The road (of criticism) leads over the nervous system of the party. Never must this criticism be allowed to be shouted into the ears of unauthorized people in fairs and squares."

(26th June 1934).

"The German people know that all that Fuehrer does is well done."

(6th September 1938).

"With all our power we will endeavour to be worthy of the Fuehrer you, O Lord, have sent us!"

(21st April 1938).

"Here with us no bayonets glitter when thousands stand together. We need no powder and shot for governing the nation. We stand around the Fuehrer, but only in order to protect him against being squeezed by the love of tens of thousands. Never before has a German been loved so fervently as this Fuehrer."

(12th June 1938).

"Ask yourself, in all your actions, how Adolf Hitler would act, and you will not go wrong."

(21st April 1938).

GERMANY WANTS TO SPREAD THE WAR.

Totalitarianism should be "total" in its application or perish and this result, it is desired by Hitler, should be achieved at lightning speed or there will be a catastrophe. At present Germany is next to the sea, to the north along the Norwegian Coast, to the west along the English Channel and the Bay of Biscay and to the south by the waters of the Aegean, and Hitler has very nearly conquered the Continent of Europe. But round these conquered countries lies a chain of islands and strategic points—Great Britain, Gibraltar, Malta, Crete, Cyprus, Alexandria and Suez—linked together by the naval supremacy of Great Britain and constituting the advance screen of a world-wide system of defence which extends in depth to the east through India to Singapore and the Antipodes, to the south of the Union of South Africa and to the west to North America. As Germany must succeed by her high speed or not at all, she is hard at work spreading the war to the whole world because, only by doing so can she hope to escape the nemesis which threatens her as a result of Anglo-American co-operation and blockade. The war of nerves is being extended daily to regions which have not yet witnessed actual operations. She is discovering "soft spots" in the world armour, a preliminary to the exhibition of armed strength. The technique is, of course, well-known. Germany wants every country to be uncertain regarding her own immediate objective in order to maintain the war of nerves. Most of these diplomatic moves are well-known. There are rumours that Sweden and Finland, Spain and Portugal are to be asked to join the Tripartite Pact, Turkey to be offered a pact of non-aggression, Russia asked to collaborate in far-reaching measures with Germany and so on and so forth. Egypt is being warned about the consequences of giving aid to Britain. There are German tourists in Iran and Syria and Rashid Ali of Iraq has been instigated to usurp control of the administration.

REPORTED THREAT TO RUSSIA

Let us this week consider the situation so far as Russia is concerned. There are various reports about Germany's demands on Russia. Germany has declared that Russia has failed to deliver goods in accordance with the terms of various commercial agreements. She is now proposing to fix the goods which the Soviet Union shall supply and demand guarantees that deliveries shall be made. The head of the German political trade department has arrived in Moscow and it is stated that he has plans ready for full Russian aid to Germany. What is required is a barter deed and he also wants credits. Further, to back these demands various military moves are reported. For instance, the German military preparations on the German side of the Soviet frontier are intended, it is stated, to frighten Russia. Plans are stated to be ready to set up anti-Soviet puppet Governments in the Baltic States and the Ukraine, if necessity should arise. In Germany Lithuanian and Latvian national committees have been formed and the Ukrainian anti-Soviet movement is receiving Nazi support, the object being to form a nuclei of Nazi and anti-Soviet Governments for the Ukraine and Baltic States. As many as 90 divisions have been stationed from the Baltic to the Black Sea and other divisions, it is alleged, are being moved from Norway to Finland, constituting an implied threat to Leningrad. Germany wants Ukranian wheat and her need for oil is great. What more then is natural for a Dictator than to make demands or invade the plains and force his way across the Caucasus? That is the question which is asked.

RUSSIAN REACTIONS

What are Russia's reactions? Repeated declarations are being made about the great increase in the military might of the Soviet Union and the newspapers point out that "certain imperial circles will be wanting to drag the Soviet Union into war." She is reinforcing her strong forces in the Ukraine, Poland and Estonia, according to a *New York* report and it is stated that there are 65 divisions along the rivers Dniester and Pruth at Lwow and Odessa. Further, there are 700 first-line bombers and a large number of pursuit planes. Russian explanation that these planes had been brought there "for spraying the wheat crops this spring" does not appear to have satisfied Germany. Military preparations in Estonia and the Gulf of Finland are proceeding, but this has been denied in Moscow. Further, Moscow has published a decree prohibiting the transit of war materials across Soviet territories.

DISMISSAL OF M. MOLOTOV

Meanwhile the world has been left wondering as to the object of M. Molotov's dismissal from the Chairmanship of the Council of the Peoples' Commissars, that is, the Premiership. In Moscow itself the change over has been stated to mean no alteration in Soviet foreign policy. But this is not believed, for, nothing that Russia embarks upon is without the object of promoting her own interests. People remember that M. Litvinoff was sent out because Russia wanted to cut away her contact with Western Powers and enter into a treaty of friendship with Germany. So, now it may be that as M. Molotov, as is stated, wanted closer collaboration with Germany, M. Stalin would prefer to wait and not take any steps which would involve Russia in any definite policy. German pressure which is increasing might compel Soviet Russia to take sharp and quick decisions and if Stalin becomes the leader of the people in name and in fact, he can take open and full responsibility.

Another report says that M. Stalin decided by this step to become his own Prime Minister because the differences between him and M. Molotov threatened to become acute and cause a political crisis which would bring about undesirable complications. Obviously he wanted to make his position fool-proof and remove the possibility of any Premier driving a wedge between his party and the army because that would mean a revolution. Molotov's "step down" means loss of prestige to him and apparently M. Stalin has full confidence that he himself will be able to steer the ship of state through the critical days ahead with Germany making extravagant demands. He may also be fortified by the thought that, as America has very nearly entered the war and therefore Germany's attention will be directed to combat this new menace, Russia will all the more be able to preserve its non-belligerent attitude.

But it has been obvious for quite a long time now that Russia is not willing to risk a war with Germany which she fears. We may illustrate this by reference to the announcement recently made in Moscow that the Soviet can no longer recognize the Belgian, Norwegian and Yugaslav Legations "owing to the loss of sovereignty by those countries." This is realistic and realistic Russia is in these days with a vengeance. It is also cynical in the extreme. But it is more. M. Stalin, who will hence forward conduct negotiations direct with Germany, has apparently "cleared away the debris," to enable him the more easily to put himself right with Hitler. Appeasement! There is, however, another feature of this opportunist policy, for, Britain has not yet recognized the absorption of the Baltic States in Soviet Union, an omission which Moscow thinks, stands in the way of Russo-British understanding—and Russia's action in regard to Belgium, Norway and Yugoslavia is an unmistakable hint to England! There are also reports that Germany and Russia will soon enter into an unrighteous pact, Iran going to Russia and Iraq, going to Germany.

THE PAUSE IN AMERICAN ACTION

What about America? There is now a significant pause before the United States of America takes the next step and this, it is stated, is characterstic of President Roosevelt, who would naturally like that, before he announces the next development, he is supported by American public opinion. Action and reaction in regard to Government's policy and public opinion are so inter-connected, at any rate, at present, that it is not right to deny that President Roosevelt is really leading that public opinion. There was a pause after the Neutrality Act was amended in 1939; another after the Presidential election, but underneath preparations continue, production increases and re-armament proceeds.

There have been pronouncements by many in the last few days urging the Government to take a forward move. The first among these was Mr. Wendell Wilkie who stated the other day that America should issue war material to Britain "by convoy, patrolling, airplanes accompanyment and what not." He called upon the United States to keep the sea lanes to Great Britain unbroken, for Hitler cannot win this war without conquering Britain and he cannot successfully invade the Island of Great Britain provided the sea-lanes are kept open. Give Great Britain, he said, all ships, new ships in American docks; ships engaged in American coastal trade, foreign ships in her harbours and ships which America is completing. Give her destroyers, he said, and see that the ships deliver the cargoes safely to the ports of Britain. He expected that in 1942 and 1943 the combined aeroplane and armament production of the English-speaking countries would end in an overwhelming superiority in the air.

Col. Knox, speaking on Monday night last, said that America had three courses: to face the aggressor with force, to become isolated from the rest of the world and to surrender. America's best choice is to face the aggressor with enough force to scare him off or defeat him. The National Policy Board of the Committee to defend America by aiding the Allies has sent an influential representation in which it urges that the country must face facts and make the defence of Great Britain overwhelming if civilization is to be saved, that American naval and air forces should be employed for convoy duty and that, if severence of diplomatic relations with Germany is necessary, it should be done.

FROM PATROL—TO CONVOY

Over and above the measures taken and reported already, the new steps of which mention should be made are the stationing of a naval squadron in the Indian Ocean to guard the Red Sea route and the requisition of 50 large coastal vessels for transport of materials to the Red Sea under the Lease and Lend Act The neutrality patrols, as is well known, now operate as far as 2,000 miles from American shores. That is only half way of the Atlantic and these patrols are acting as scouts, warning British shipping of enemy surface raiders, submarines or aircraft. This is a very valuable aid to British shipping. British ships are safe in the American neutrality zone. Near Britain they are protected by escort craft, but in mid-Atlantic many ships and convoys have to sail unprotected or only inadequately escorted. These ships will be assisted by the scouting activities of the American patrols which will make it more difficult for German surface raiders and submarines to find their quarry. Of course, the logical development from this patrol system is a full-fledged convoy system. Such a complete convoy system means that America should be prepared for incidents, for American warships are not likely to be looking on when British ships are attacked. This is a possibility. The pause in the next statement of policy is because President Roosevelt wishes to satisfy for himself whether American public opinion would be ready for the United States entering the war at sea. Colonel Knox has said that the United States Navy was "readier now than ever" to undertake the job of assuring the delivery of war supplies to Britain if and when such duty was assigned to it. The American executive has indicated clearly that the convoy system should be set up and the indications are that this will be done soon. President Roosevelt has postponed his speech which was intended to be delivered on Wednesday, the 14th. This is apparently because he thinks that the time for a pronouncement is not yet. Meanwhile, American production of aircraft is progressing very satisfactorily and a newspaper commentator the other day said that if the full facts of American production were known they would startle the world. The new aircraft "Vengeance" carries a bomb load of 1,700 pounds, has a range which is considerably increased and is armed with the most modern guns and devices. Australia has decided to send an air squadron to Great Britain and British bombers carry increased bomb-loads.

R.A.F.'s DAY-LIGHT OFFENSIVE

The day-light offensive on the part of the Royal Air Force is daily increasing, especially in the North Sea, and Occupied countries. Of course, the German pilots are daring and resourceful, but after the defeat suffered by the mass day-light raids last autumn, Germany is fighting shy of day-light raids. The Royal Air Force, on the other hand, is launching both bomber and fighter raids as well as single plane bomber attacks, in enemy occupied territory and in Germany. In the first week of January the day-light attacks were made at enemy shipping in the North Sea and in the Channel. This was followed in the middle of January by day-light attacks by British bombers and fighters on aerodromes, factories and other objectives behind the coastline of northern France. These day-light sweeps took the

enemy by surprise. Further these sweeps were extended to Belgium and Holland as well as France and February saw the intensification of definite day-light bombing raids on various coastal bases. There were interruptions because of bad weather and other causes, but from the middle of March the Royal Air Force has been steadily hitting the enemy during day-light, causing damage to supply ships and small naval craft. It would appear that more than 42,000 tons of enemy shipping were sunk or damaged in enemy waters in Norway and France in a single week in April. This was done by bombers. It may be safely stated, therefore, that so far as day-light raids are concerned, the Royal Air Force has definitely shown superiority in the air with very little losses.

What about night-raids? The Royal Air Force in its raids on Germany, as is well known, is using bigger and heavier bombers. Heligoland, St. Nazaire, Berlin, Emden, Kiel, Hamburg, Coblenz, Cologne, Mannheim and other places have been bombed and punished very severely indeed.

GERMAN NIGHT RAIDERS

So far as night raids are concerned, Germany enjoys considerable advantage in geographical conditions and very severe and indiscriminate raids have been made on a number of important British centres, Plymouth, Portsmouth, London, etc. The House of Commons has been destroyed as also the Westminster Hall, St. James' Palace, Queen's Hall and Lambeth Palace. Many land-marks in great towns have been destroyed and extensive damage has been inflicted. But these night raiders have by no means gone scot-free and night fighter technique is rapidly being improved. Since the first of May, as many as 140 night raiders have been brought down and many badly damaged. What is important is not the number destroyed, but the proportion of those brought down to those sent over night to Great Britain which have been destroyed or damaged. This proportion is satisfactorily increasing. German night raiders are still a problem, but figures of the Luftwaffe losses are very encouraging and show that British methods of dealing with them are being daily improved.

GREAT BRITAIN'S OBJECT

What does this review of the situation indicate? It is obvious that the spring and summer months of 1941 are the time of greatest danger for Britain and her Allies. As regards military equipment, numbers, economic resources and prestige, the Nazi system is at the height of its power, but it will be surpassed economically when American production has been fully organised. The realization of this is shown in Hitler's speech to the Reichstag on the 4th May, when he urged the already overworked armament workers to even greater efforts. Now or never this system must leap from the rung of European domination to world supremacy. At all costs the Germans must break out of the European prison camp which they have created for themselves and for the unfortunate nations whom they have enslaved. Because that is so, the peoples of the British Commonwealth know that they stand today in greater danger than at any previous time in their history. They know that their resources (not yet mobilised to the full height of production) will be strained to the utmost, that they may expect hard blows from every quarter and that they will be called upon to hold on against heavy odds. In the Battle of Britain in which they were victorious and in the Battle of Greece in which they were defeated with honour, they proved mastery. The situation is serious, but Britain and her Allies must and will hold fast until the danger has passed, that is, until ships, tanks, planes and guns come across the Atlantic in such numbers that overwhelming victory becomes assured.

THE WAR IN AFRICA

Steady advance by Indian and South African forces converging on the last Italian stronghold of Amba Alagi in Abyssinia and substantial improvement in the British position in Libya, particularly in the Sollum sector, marked this week's operations in the African theatre of war. General Blamey, deputy to General Wavell, in a report to the Australian Minister for the Army, attributed the improvement in the Libyan situation, firstly, to the greater freedom which the British Navy enjoyed in assisting land operations since the memorable evacuation from Greece, and, secondly, to the enemy's increasing difficulties in maintaining supplies, thanks to the severe sand-storms raging in the desert. British Naval forces bombarded Benghazi on two days in succession, obtaining direct hits on shipping in the harbour as well as installations on land. The Royal Air Force continually harassed enemy transport and supply bases and pounded away at Tripoli, Benghazi, Benina, Derna and other towns. British mechanised patrols surprised and captured enemy detachments at Tobruk while an enemy reconnaissance force at Sollum was beaten back easily and the Germans driven to their original positions, south and west of Sollum. The Germans were also finding the heat of the desert very trying. And their attempts to interfere with the free movement of the British Fleet in Western Mediterranean proved abortive, no fewer than seven enemy dive-bombers being shot down in one action without British ships sustaining any damage.

And, in Abyssinia, Indian troops continue to perform prodigies of valour. They are steadily advancing from the north on the mountain fastness of Amba Alagi, the Italians' last stronghold, which is also being neared by the South African forces marching

from the south. Amba Alagi may confidently be expected to fall in a few days; and then Emperor Haile Selassie, who once more sits on the Abyssinian throne, can settle down to the task of peaceful administration. In a message to Mr. Winston Churchill, he expressed his gratitude for all the help rendered in the liberation of his country by British, Indian and other Dominion forces. He said: "I am proud that my people, in collaboration with the British, have been able to play their part in the defeat of the enemy. I am determined to see that Ethiopia contributes still further to the ultimate victory. I should be grateful if Your Excellency would express to the Generals, officers and men of the brave British troops from the Home Country and from the Dominions of South Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Sudan and India, who have contributed to the campaign's success, the admiration and gratitude of myself and my people." Mr. Churchill replied: "With deep and universal pleasure, the British Nation and the Empire have learned of Your Imperial Majesty's welcome to your capital. You were the first of the lawful sovereigns to be driven from throne and country by the Fascist and Nazi criminals and you are now the first to return in triumph. His Majesty's Government look forward to a long period of peace and progress in Ethiopia after the forces of evil have been finally overthrown."

The Emperor's tribute to the Indian forces is particularly justified. Their advance has been marked by many magnificent feats of valour. **An Indian Captain of a Frontier Force**, who has been throughout the heaviest fighting in Eritrea, gives an interesting account of his experiences. This Hindu officer graduated from the Dehra Dun Academy and entered the Regular Army. He says that the country generally resembled the Indian Frontier, although it was less cultivated; and the greatest affliction was flies, which caused dysentery, but there was fortunately little malaria. The Indians stood the conditions, including the February heat—it was 105 in the shade—very well and sickness was less than 5 per cent. The capture of Keren was a tough job, the place being heavily fortified. The Garhwalis, who attacked Sanchil fort, suffered 50 per cent casualties half-way and at hundred yards from the position had only 60 men left, most of the casualties happily being only wounded. An outstanding deed of individual heroism was performed by a sepoy of 18 years, who volunteered to clean out two machine-gun nests with hand-grenades, by which he disposed of all gunners, and when counter-attacked by twelve Italians, killed six and took the other six prisoner. At the beginning of the campaign, the officer continued, there was some concern about the reactions of many young soldiers to dive-bombing, but after the first alarm at this terrifying experience, even the youngest ceased to worry and latterly the Indians were reluctant to drop into trenches when enemy planes began bombing. The officer reports that feeding arrangements were always excellent and the medical services superb. "On the Frontier, we made it a point of honour never to leave a man in No Man's Land and we observed this code in Africa. We buried all our dead and brought in all our wounded." The same units are now engaged in mopping-up operations in Abyssinia.

KINGDOM OF IRAQ

INDIA'S WESTERN BASTION OF DEFENCE

Before the Great War (1914–18), Iraq had never enjoyed an independent existence as a State. Whether as part of the Roman, Persian, Arab or Turkish Empires, it was always subjected to the imperial sway of the country which ruled the Middle East. The modern Kingdom of Iraq was formed after the world war out of the Turkish provinces of Mosul, Baghdad and Basra. As a result of Great Britain's victory in 1918, aided in Mesopotamia largely by the efforts of Indian soldiers, Iraq for the first time in history became an independent State after remaining for a short period as a mandated State under the League of Nations with Great Britain as mandatory power and with King Feisal of the Hashimi family as its first sovereign. The British Government went to immense pains to safeguard the frontiers of the new State, and obtained the League of Nations decision, which was eventually accepted by Turkey, including Mosul in it.

Iraq includes an area of 116,000 square miles, with a population of 3,500,000. Its capital is Baghdad and its chief port is Basra, 70 miles up the Shatt el Arab (the Euphrates) from the Persian Gulf. Rich in oil and lying astride the road to the East, it has roused the greed of the Axis powers, who are now stirring up trouble there.

GREAT WAR CAMPAIGN

During the years from 1911 to the outbreak of the World War, the Ottoman regime in the distant provinces showed marked deterioration and Arab nationalism was making itself felt. The declaration of war was followed on October 31, 1914 by a proclamation by the British Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to the local Arab rulers, explaining that Turkey had entered the war only at the instigation of Germany and promising the chiefs who enjoyed the protection of Great Britain that no act of that country would threaten their liberty or religion. Sir Percy Cox joined the British Empire's Forces concentrated at Bahrein as Chief Political Officer and on 6th November, when the British took Fao Fort and made the first landing on Turkish soil, he issued a proclamation in similar terms to the Arabs of Turkish Arabia. The attempt made by the Ottoman Government to rouse the Muslims by preaching "a holy war" met with no response from the tribesmen and in November 1921, the Turks abandoned Basra.

On November 1922, the British troops entered Basra and Sir Percy Cox published a third proclamation, assuring the inhabitants that Turkish rule was dead and that Great Britain came in as a good friend and protector. The advance from Basra to Baghdad was effected after a series of reverses, which gave an anxious time to the Allies, but Sir Stanley Maude asserted himself and Baghdad was occupied on March 11, 1917. General Maude, on the eve of the occupation, issued yet another proclamation, in which a definite promise was given that alien institutions would not be imposed, that Arab aspirations would be realized and that on these grounds the collaboration of Arab nobles, elders and representatives with the British Political Officers was essential. Sir Percy Cox as Civil Commissioner took over the civil administration of the occupied territory and Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Marshall, who succeeded General Maude on the latter's death from cholera in November 1917, led the British troops from success to success. Late in November 1917, the Northern Euphrates was occupied up to Ramadi and in March 1914 up to Ana and during the final advance in October 1918 the occupation of the whole of the Mosul area was effected.

ANGLO-FRENCH DECLARATION

On 7th November 1918, ten days after the signature of the Turkish armistice at Mudros, the British and French Governments issued a joint declaration of vital importance to the occupied Arab territories, stating their aims in the East to be "to complete the final enfranchisement of the peoples so long oppressed by the Turks and the establishment of national governments and administrations drawing their authority from the initiative and free choice of native populations." The proclamation went on to promise encouragement and help in the establishment of native governments and administrations alike in Syria and Mesopotamia. Meanwhile, nationalist feeling was growing in Iraq and the wide promulgation of President Wilson's famous Fourteen Points only fanned the flame. This was further encouraged by the inquiries which the Civil Commissioner set on foot under instructions from His Majesty whether (1) the people of Iraq were in favour of a united Arab State from the Northern boundary of the Mosul vilayet to the Persian Gulf, (2) it should be under British tutelage, (3) it should be under an Arab Emir, (4) in the latter case, whom would they suggest. Sir Percy Cox, who was appointed High Commissioner, found it possible to establish, as a first step towards national government, a Council of State under the presidency of the venerable Naquib of Baghdad. This body represented all classes and sects of society.

In March 1921, Mr. Winston Churchill, who had become the Secretary of State for the Colonies, convened a conference at Cairo, to which all British representatives in the Middle East were summoned. Soon an attempt was made to ascertain the wishes

of the Kurdish provinces about their inclusion or non-inclusion in the Iraq State. The net result was that the Sulaimaniyah region elected to remain under the control of the High Commissioner, but the rest of the Kurdish population agreed to come into the Iraq State, with proper safeguards. It was not until June, however, that the British Government were in a position to make a clear announcement of policy.

FEISAL BECOMES KING.

Emir Feisal, son of King Hussein of Mecca, who had been asked to quit Syria by the French authorities, arrived in Iraq and offered himself to the inhabitants as a candidate for the throne. He was received with acclamation and on July 11, the Council of Ministers passed a resolution, declaring him King of Iraq on condition that his Government should be constitutional, representative and democratic. In a plebiscite that followed, Feisal secured 96 per cent of the votes cast, most of the townships and districts stipulating for the continuance of the British mandate. Feisal was crowned King on August 23, 1921, and entrusted the Naqib with the formation of his first Cabinet.

The terms of the mandate were never formally laid down by the League of Nations, but the relations between Great Britain and Iraq were defined in terms of a treaty concluded on October 10, 1922, originally for a period of 20 years. This, however, was modified by a protocol, dated April 30, 1923, in which it was agreed that the treaty should terminate upon Iraq being admitted to membership of the League of Nations and in any case not later than four years from the date of ratification of peace with Turkey, when it was contemplated that the parties would conclude a fresh treaty for the regulation of their future relations. On September 24, 1924, the League of Nations accepted this instrument as properly fulfilling the provisions of Article 22 of the Covenant. By a further treaty ratified on March 30, 1926, and resulting from the decision of the League on the Mosul question, the period was again altered to 25 years (from December 16, 1925) unless before the expiration of that period Iraq should be admitted to membership of the League of Nations.

Demonstrations against the continuance of the Mandate, trouble with the unruly tribesmen under the rule of Nejd and attempts made by Turkish nationalists to gain control of the Mosul oil-fields interfered with the peaceful progress of Iraq. Thanks to firm measures taken at the frontier, Turkish intrigues were nullified, and Sulaimaniyah, too, became included in Iraq (in March 1924). Arab raids were stopped with the drafting of a treaty between Iraq and the Kingdom of Nejd. The country was, in accordance with the terms of the mandate, developed to an increasing degree of independence. A Constituent Assembly adopted a Constitution in 1924, providing for a limited monarchy, responsible government and a two-chamber parliament with a nominated 20-member-senate and a Lower House of 150 elected deputies. King Feisal I died in 1930, and his son Ghazi succeeded him. On December 14, 1927, Great Britain recognized Iraq's full independence and in 1930 His Majesty's Government determined to support the candidature of Iraq for membership of the League, automatically terminating their mandatory responsibilities. A Treaty of Alliance was also signed between His Majesty's Government and His Majesty the King of Iraq, declaring perpetual peace and friendship between the two countries and establishing a close alliance. Article IV of the Treaty laid down that if either of the high contracting parties became engaged in war, the other high contracting party would always immediately come to his aid in the capacity of an ally and the Iraq Government would furnish on Iraqi territory all facilities and assistance in their power, including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes and means of communication. The Annexure to the Treaty bound the King of Iraq to afford, when requested to do so, all possible facilities for the movement of the British forces of all arms across Iraq and for the transport and storage of all supplies and equipment. On October 4, 1932, Iraq became a member of the League, but there is a British military mission, the police force has British inspectors, and the Royal Air Force maintains squadrons at various stations in Iraq. The Kingdom has a conscript army (28,0000 in peace time) with modern equipment and a mobile police of 10,000. The Mosul oil-fields, run by a company under joint control of the Royal Dutch and Standard Oil groups and connected with Haifa by a pipeline, and the Khanaquin oil-fields near the Iranian frontier, belonging to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, are important.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ

King Ghazi died in a car crash on April 4, 1939. He was succeeded by his infant son, King Feisal II, born May 2, 1935; the latter's uncle, Emir Abdul Ilah acted as the Rgent. *A coup d'etat* by Hikmet Sulaiman and Chief of Staff Bakir Sidki in 1936 removed the two parties of General Nuri es Said Pasha (progressive) and Yasin Pasha (nationalist). Bakir Sidki was assassinated by a soldier in August 1938 and Hikmet Sulaiman resigned. He was followed by the moderate Gamil el Madfai, and in December 1938 Nuri es Said Pasha came back from exile and was again Premier. On the outbreak of the present war the Government of Iraq agreed in pursuance of the Treaty to close the German Legation in Baghdad and to intern all German subjects. When, however, Italy entered the

war the Iraqi Government on one pretext or another put off compliance and Italian banks are still in being in Iraq, and Italian subjects have not been interned.

At the beginning of April 1941, power was unconstitutionally seized by Rashid Ali el Gailani, who had been Premier of an earlier Government, with the aid of four Commanders of the Iraq Army. General Taha al Hashimi, the Premier of the time, had not been dismissed and threats to the Regent's person compelled him to leave the capital and take refuge in Basra and thereafter in Transjordan. The seizure of power by Rashid Ali was in complete disregard of the constitution and was only made possible by the support of the four Generals of the Iraq Army. It is therefore a military *coup d'etat*. Nevertheless Rashid Ali, after assuming power, made a speech in which he stated that, among other things, he intended to observe the Anglo-Iraqi Alliance. Subsequent events have shown that this was a manoeuvre to gain time to enable his Axis friends to come to his aid.

In view of the development of the war in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, Britain decided that it was necessary to despatch troops to Iraq under the Treaty to open and hold the lines of communication through Basra and Baghdad, and Rashid Ali was notified that troops would shortly be arriving. Proof exists that he had been in communication with Germany and Italy and had at first intended to oppose the landing of troops. This he was unable to do, but he subsequently asked for armed assistance from the Axis. On being informed that the auxiliary units to complete the first contingent of British troops was about to arrive, he replied that these units could not land until the troops already in Basra first had passed through Iraq and gave signs in other ways that he was acting at the bidding of the Axis Powers. He was informed that the landing and passage of troops was entirely consistent with the Treaty and that a base had to be established and that no undertaking of the sort demanded could be given. It was made clear that His Majesty's Government did not wish to exceed their treaty rights but would submit to no diminution of them.

At this stage Iraqi troops and artillery were despatched to surround the air base at Habbaniyah and also to oppose the troops that had established the base in Basra. It is these movements that have led to a clash in both places. As stated above, it is known that Rashid Ali's action has been taken following an understanding with the enemy. It need not be emphasized that the entry of enemy influence or power into Iraq will not only facilitate the encirclement of Turkey but threaten the independent Arab countries and India as well. A threat to Iraq must become a threat to the Persion Gulf and India. Not only does the line of air communications between India and the West lie through Iraq but the new railway connecting Turkey, Syria and Iraq in connexion with the steamer service in the Persian Gulf, makes it one of the main corridors of political and commercial activity in the direction of India. India is vitally interested that Iraq should remain an independent country in alliance with Great Britain and the rest of the Empire and in no way subordinate to the enemy.

ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE AT HABBANIYAH

The problem of the military defence of Iraq under the treaties with Great Britain is of unique interest in that the defence has been entrusted mainly to British aircraft. Habbaniyah, which has now leapt into the news, was ten years ago nothing but an expanse of desert. It is now a flourishing airport. By the treaty of 1932, Iraq undertook to grant to Great Britain "for the duration of the alliance, sites for air bases to be selected by His Britannic Majesty to the west of the Euphrates." Further clauses arranged that the British forces at Hinaidi (a Royal Air Force base about seven miles from Baghdad) and Mosul were to be transferred in five years to Shaibah, near Basra, and to the new base on the Euphrates. The emphasis on the fact that it was to be "west of the Euphrates" was because nowhere does the Euphrates approach Baghdad nearer than 30 miles. Both countries agreed that the presence of British troops must not "constitute in any manner an occupation." Habbaniyah, well away in the desert, it has been truly said, could cause embarrassment to nobody. The site chosen was 56 miles west of Baghdad, and one mile north of the main Baghdad-Damscus desert route.

The action of Rashid Ali, in ordering Iraqi troops to fire upon Imperial forces at Habbaniyah, is one of the grossest acts of political ingratitude in modern times. British arms gave Iraq its first independence since the days of Nebuchadnezzar. British statesmanship then organized the new state, secured the recognition of its independence and its admission to the League of Nations. British officers trained its infant army and British diplomacy protected it while Iraq was too weak to defend itself. British enterprises developed its irrigation system and its oil resources, bringing trade, prosperity and wealth to the country. British troops now in the country are there to safeguard it from any possible Axis threat. In attacking the British in defiance of all treaty obligations and repeated assurances of friendship, Rashid Ali is biting the hand which has created his state and nurtured, nourished and protected it during its infancy.

INDIA'S BASTION

"A threat to Iraq is a threat to India" is the maxim on which military opinion in India bases its interpretation of the events in one of the western bastions of Indian defence, as Iraq is regarded by strategists. Once the

enemy succeeded in utilizing an understanding with Rashid Ali to establish himself in Iraq, it is explained, it might not be very long before he pushed forward to Iran, which is well provided with aerodromes. From Iran to Baluchistan is not a difficult extension. Expert opinion considers that the recent *coup d' etat* in Iraq was part of a plan to get control of Basra and prevent the landing of Empire troops there. This dangerous development has probably been forestalled by the British action.

Military opinion in India emphasises that an expedition to conquer Iraq or hold down the people is the last thing that the British authorities either desire or, indeed ever contemplated in view of the close ties of friendship and mutual co-operation established by the Treaty. From the military point of view, it is eminently undesirable that a situation should arise where troops might have to be locked up in controlling an unwilling or hostile country, while the need for all available forces is urgent in other vital theatres. The intention, it is declared, is only to use the minimum possible force to secure facilities in accordance with treaty rights.

HITLER'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

There are many signs that Rashid Ali planned his revolt in the best back-stabbing traditions weeks ago in the closest co-operation with the Germans and Italians. The Germans and Italians, under cover of archæological expeditions, tourists and diplomats, arrived *via* Turkey. A close link was established with the Italian Armistice Commission in Syria, which for the last few weeks has grown markedly more truculent. The network has spread from Basra to Mosul. It is known that when Rashid Ali discovered that the number of British troops entering the country exceeded the estimates he had sent to Germany, he was urged to strike immediately under promise of Nazi help, which is reported to have arrived at last in the shape of agitators, propagandists and similar Axis specialists. These have arrived by air; and Mr. Eden revealed in the House of Commons that French authorities had allowed the Germans to use Syrian aerodromes as "stepping-stones" to Iraq. The Royal Air Force are taking appropriate action against German aircraft. The British sea routes are totally unaffected by the Iraqi revolt. The Persian Gulf is ours, together with access to Bahrein and the Arabian oil-fields. Only a section of the Iraqis, mostly the regular army, joined the revolt, which the British Imperial Forces have now almost quelled.

The *Manchester Guardian* in a leader on Iraq writes:—It is satisfactory that we have control of Basra, which is some 40 miles from Abadan, an Iranian port on the Persian Gulf. (Iran's production of oil in 1938 was 10,000,000 tons, most of which was refined at Abadan, and it was almost entirely consumed in the Empire. Iraq's production in the same year was 4,000,000 tons, three quarters of which went to France—one-half, however, *via* the port of Haifa in Palestine.) If we can act vigorously, which will not be easy with so much on our hands, Rashid Ali may find he has played traitor too soon. Germany is at the moment too far away to help him much, though if we imagine she will not try to leap the distance to this promising field, we will again proclaim ourselves to have learnt nothing in two years. The loss of Iraq oil supply alone would not affect us deeply, though gaining it would be much to Hitler's advantage. But to see the disturbance in Iraq as Hitler trying to get oil is too simple. It is just a small part of his great design, which is to conquer Egypt and Suez and drive us out of the Mediterranean. All the oil in Iraq would not avail Hitler if he still left us in that sea, for we should stop his getting it home. But the main purpose of Rashid Ali's hostility is to divert forces which we badly need in Egypt, for, because of its place in our Middle East position, the disorder in Iraq enforces some diversion on us. This, Hitler believes, will help him towards his main scheme, which we can be sure he will be backing further by transferring hundreds of aircraft released by the end of Balkan war to plague Egypt. Only if Alexandria fell would the Mosul oil-fields shine out as a great prize for Hitler; if the fleet were driven away, the Germans would be able, after overcoming difficulties like finding enough tankers, to carry the oil of Iraq back to Trieste and Germany. Then the blockade on which we rely for shortening the war would be broken and we should have to consider a future far different from that which faces us now. All hangs on the successful defence of Egypt, and those who declare that this has small importance beside the Battle of the Atlantic and the defence of Britain do the Commonwealth's cause poor service indeed. Hitler will, of course, want to give Rashid Ali all the aid in his power. It should, of course, be impossible for the Germans, in the face of our fleet and hold over Crete and Cyprus, to get many troops to Syria or fly many to Iraq. But knots of Germans would give the Iraqis a valuable stiffening and Hitler will try to get them there. We must check his design by acting vigorously with all the strength we can assemble. We must free ourselves for this fight for Egypt on which the whole issue of the war may hang.

TURKEY'S ATTITUDE

Sir Hughe Knatchbull Huggessen, the British Ambassador in Turkey, saw M. Sarajoglu, the Turkish Foreign Minister, early this week, apparently to tell him of the latest developments in the Iraq situation. Rashid Ali's appeal for German help has annoyed Ankara, because if the Axis could give him

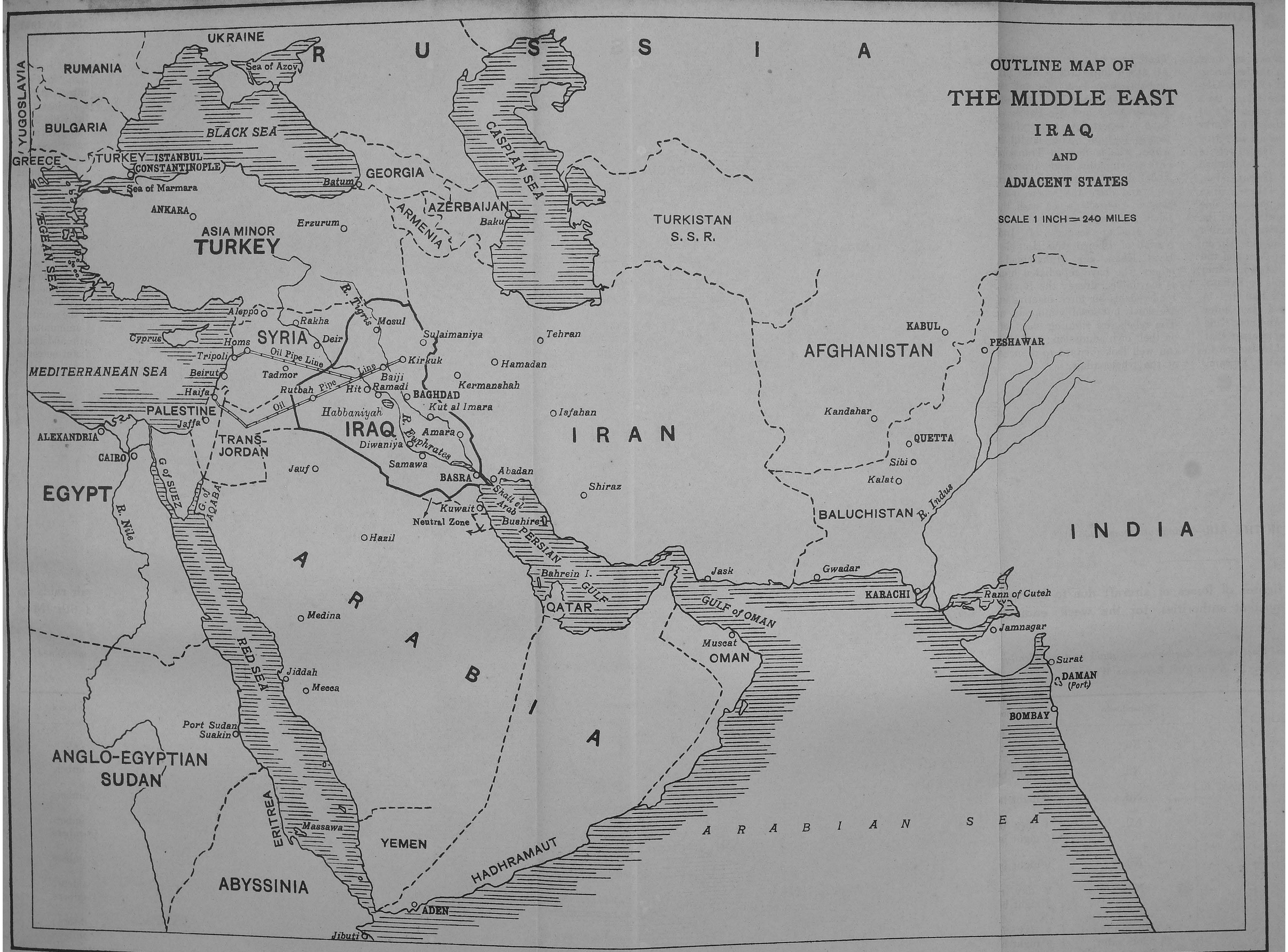
effective help, which is regarded as most unlikely, the result would be a further encirclement of Turkey by the Axis. The Germans declare that the Arabs are taking up a "holy war" to which the Turks point out that there cannot be such a war without the Turks and especially without any Caliphate directing and calling up the faithful. The Pact of Saadabad, concluded in 1934, established political collaboration between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Of these, Iran and Turkey have shown in unmistakable terms that they have little sympathy with the tactics of Rashid Ali. Turkey has also indicated that the terms proposed by Rashid Ali on which she could mediate between him and the British are clear violations of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty and will not be acceptable to Britain. Egypt, Britain's ally, also wants him first to suspend his hostile activities and then enter into negotiations with Britain. And now King Ibn Saud has informed the Iraqi usurper that he is unable to offer any kind of assistance to the anti-British movement initiated by him. There have been demonstratons against Rashid Ali at all important centres in Iraq; and he probably intends to flee the country, seeing that he can make little headway against the British Army and Air Force. But King Ibn Saud is reported to have refused to give protection to him. The lawful Regent meanwhile, who is now in Transjordan, with the entire sympathy and approval of its Emir Abdullah, is organizing an army to march back and drive the rebels from Iraq. That Rashid Ali cuts no ice with the followers of Islam is finally evident in the attitude of the Muslim leaders of India like the Nawab of Bhopal, the Hon'ble Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, Sir Muhammad Usman, and others who have repudiated him. His defeat is inevitable; already the Royal Air Force has rendered his air force inactive and the British are slowly but steadily mopping up the country. The rebels are running short of ammunition, on their own admission; and Britain and India can well look forward to a successful outcome of the whole affair.

WAR IN THE AIR—(*Continued from Page* 4)

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 6th May 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attack (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European Waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 30	Nil.	....
May 1	Nil.	1 night bomber.
May 2	Nil.	6 night bombers.
May 3	Nil.	1 day bomber ; 15 night bombers.
May 4	Nil.	9 night bombers.
May 5	Nil.	2 day raiders ; 7 night bombers.
May 6	5 day fighters (3 pilots safe).	4 day fighters ; 9 night bombers.



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GREAT BRITAIN AND IRAQ

A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Has Britain attacked Iraq?

No.

British and Indian troops entered Iraq in strict accordance with the Anglo-Iraqi treaty. They were welcomed by the population and officially, at first, by the illegal government of Rashid Ali Gailani. Subsequently Gailani wantonly ordered Iraqi forces to fire upon Imperial forces at Habbaniyah. In the ensuing operations the Imperial troops have defended themselves in the exercise of their lawful mission.

What does Iraq owe to Britain?

British arms gave Iraq its first independence from foreign rule since the days of Nebuchadnezzar. British statesmanship organized the new state, secured the recognition of its independence and its admission to the League of Nations. British officers trained its young army and British diplomacy protected it while Iraq was too weak to defend itself. British enterprise developed its irrigation system and its oil resources, bringing trade and prosperity to the country.

British and Indian troops now in Iraq are there to defend Iraq itself in a time of great danger, and to maintain communications with Britain's Egyptian and Turkish allies.

What does the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty provide?

" The aid of His Majesty the King of Iraq in the event of war or the imminent menace of war will consist in furnishing to His Britannic Majesty on Iraq territory all facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes and means of communication." (Article 4.)

" Great Britain shall have all possible facilities for the movement of British forces in transit across Iraq and for the storage and transport of all supplies and equipment required by them." (Annexure to articles 5 and 6.)

Who is Rashid Ali Gailani?

He is the leader of a gang of Quislings definitely known to be in Axis pay, and prepared to sell their country to the highest bidder. His cabinet held office in Iraq from Mar. 31, 1940 to Jan. 28, 1941, when it resigned *en bloc.* Three weeks later, taking advantage of the prorogation of Parliament, Rashid Ali seized power in Baghdad by force, and has since supported himself by an ambitious and unscrupulous military clique.

Who is the Regent Abdullah?

He is the second son of the late King Feisal of Iraq, whose memory is still revered throughout the country. He is thus the uncle of the present child-king Faisal II, for whom he acted as Regent until Rashid Ali's treachery forced him temporarily to leave the country. He has now proclaimed his return " to restore the tarnished honour of my native land and lead it back to peaceful prosperity under a lawfully constituted government."

What has Germany to do with it?

The Government of Iraq severed relations with Germany on Sep. 6, 1939, and Germans in Iraq were deported. But Germany continued her intrigue and bribery in Arab countries. In Saudi Arabia a plot was discovered (Dec. 29, 1940) against the King and his regime. The ringleader was Sherif Abdul Hamid Ibn Oan, who had been in Berlin in 1939.

In Iraq Rashid Ali is the German tool, paid to create a threat to the rear of Turkey and Syria.

What is the British Attitude?

Britain deplores the situation in Iraq, and her only desire is to see Iraq peaceful and ruled by her own government under her own constitution. If Rashid Ali withdraws his troops, cordial relations can be restored between the two countries. In the meantime Britain is determined to defend her rights under the Treaty.

What do others say?

" No Muslim country can have any sympathy with Germany and we should like to warn the people of Iraq against the grave consequences of Germans setting foot on her soil." *Ehsan, Lahore.*

" Even if enemy help should be forthcoming, for Iraq it would be a leap from the frying pan into the fire."— *Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta.*

" The Iraqis should throw out their present leaders."—*Yeni Sabah, Ankara.*

" The men who today boast of being the leaders of Iraq are responsible for the present events. They have betrayed the cause of Iraq."—*Vatan, Ankara.*

" There can be no future for the Arab world under Hitler. . . . We believe that it would be in the best interests of Iraq and all other Arab states to maintain traditional good relations with Great Britain."—*President of the Arab National League in the U.S.A.*

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

The Reichstag Listens

The members of the German Reichstag are doubtless well aware of Dr. Ley's celebrated declaration at a Nazi party conference : "We are not in a parliamentary talking-shop with its debatings and votings and rules of procedure. You can't make decisions here. You are here in order to hear the opinion of the Fuehrer."

The opinion of the Fuehrer, in his Reichstag speech on May 4 (repeated in English next day) was that Germany had never had any territorial ambitions in the Balkans (*cf. Mein Kampf* : "We ought to have an Eastern policy which will have in view the acquisition of such territory as is necessary for the German people"). We had become accustomed to Hitler's declarations of inoffensiveness before attacking his neighbours (*e.g.*, "We do not want any Czechs", 26th Sep. 1938). He now carries it a step further to protest innocence after he has committed the crime.

Hitler in the Dock

Hitler's elaborate excuses for his Balkan aggressions suggests that awkward questions may have been asked even in Germany. If the Reichstag members are prepared to accept his claim that these aggressions were merely defensive measures against the British, then they are giving good evidence of their fear of the coming retribution. For the world knows that the decision to send an Imperial Expeditionary Force to aid Greece was taken after, and in consequence of, the German entry into Bulgaria.

The Pill beneath the Sugar

According to Hitler, the mighty struggle waged by the Greek nation first against Italy and then against Italy and Germany together, was merely the effort of a small political clique. Nevertheless, he now seeks to appease the Greeks by praising their valour. As for his own heavy losses in the campaign, his attempt to minimize them is belied by the peroration of his speech, which appealed to German workers, both men and women, to make a much greater effort to equip the Reich for a war which, he now admits, may not after all be won by Germany this year.

Preliminary Announcement

On April 22, more than 48 hours before the evacuation from Greece began, the Berlin radio was announcing :—

> "The British troops are in headlong flight out of Greece. On April 21, the *Luftwaffe* sank five fully-laden transports totalling 25,000 tons. . . . two further ships laden with troops were badly damaged."

Not a single British transport had left Greece when that announcement was made. Yet the same bulletin also pretended to quote Istanbul reports of the embarkation of British troops at the Piraeus two days before that.

Next day, April 23—still more than 24 hours before the embarkation began—the German wireless declared :—

> "In Berlin, the British losses of life by the sinking of over-crowded transports are estimated at 30,000. A total of 122,000 tons of the British transport fleet has been sunk, and many more vessels damaged. Since Sunday, thousands of bodies of British soldiers are being daily washed ashore on the coasts of the Aegean Sea."

At the time this fanciful picture was being broadcast, German troops had nowhere reached the shores of the Aegean, which may explain why they had to rely on the imagination of Josef Goebbels for information of what was happening there. Other items of that day's Nazi news included the sinking of a further six transport vessels totalling 20,000 tons.

A Dangerous Prophecy

Still on April 23, Berlin foretold triumphantly that "the Australian, New Zealand and Scottish troops will not have much chance to escape unless, by some means or other, the German advance is slowed down." As all the world knows, the German advance was slowed down, and 80 per cent of the Expeditionary Force got away.

At midday on April 24, with several hours still to go before the first British transport left Greece, Berlin was gaily announcing that "so far, roughly 152,000 tons of British transports have been sunk in Greek waters. Since many of these transports were filled with troops, the British losses must have been severe. On board the burning and sinking ships, scenes of extreme panic were observed." At the time this was being broadcast, the first British or Empire troops had not yet set foot on the transports.

What Really Happened

The British evacuation from Greece began on the night of April 24. Between then and April 30, when the evacuation ended, three empty transports were sunk and one fully-loaded transport set on fire. The 700 men aboard the burning vessels were taken off, but many of them perished when the two destroyers which had rescued them were subsequently sunk. Soon after midnight on April 30, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Mediterranean Fleet was able to announce that 45,000 troops and Royal Air Force personnel (out of a grand total of not more than 60,000 originally in Greece) had been safely evacuated, along with many refugees. Of the approximately 15,000 troops and Royal Air Force

personnel not evacuated, several thousands were killed during the actual fighting in Greece, and the remainder taken prisoner during the final stage of the German advance.

Few lies in Goebbels' history, therefore, can hope to rank with his three-fold claim—

(*a*) to have sunk before the evacuation began many more laden transports than were in fact lost during the actual operation,

(*b*) to have littered the beaches of Greece with thousands of drowned British soldiers at least 24 hours before a single man had gone abroad a transport, and

(*c*) to have destroyed at sea twice as many British troops as were lost in the whole Greek Campaign, including the evacuation!

Another Lie Exposed

Meanwhile, another of Goebbels' oft-repeated Balkan lies has been decisively rebutted. This is his allegation—begun as long ago as the initial Italian invasion—that the British would betray the Greeks. As soon as the Nazi hordes went into Greece, the Berlin radio began to prophesy that the British would let their Greek allies down, and would refuse to fight for them—notwithstanding the fact that one of Germany's excuses for attacking Greece was that large bodies of British troops were alleged to be already established there. As soon as the Greek and British forces were compelled to give way, inch by inch, before the overwhelming might of the enemy's mechanized hordes, Goebbels sent up a shriek that the British were running away and leaving the Greeks to cover their retreat.

That the British decision to withdraw their Expeditionary Force was made at the suggestion of the Greek Government itself is proved, once and for all by this extract from a letter from the Greek Government to the British Government, read to the House of Commons by Mr. Eden on April 30:

"In these conditions, continuation of the struggle, while incapable of producing any useful effect, would have no other result than to bring about the collapse of the Greek Army and bloodshed useless to the Allied cause. Consequently the Greek Government are obliged to state that further sacrifice of the British Expeditionary Force will be in vain, and its withdrawal in time seems to be rendered necessary by the circumstances and by the Interests common to the struggle.

How to Describe a Raid

"Last night," said Berlin's English bulletin of May 4, "minor Royal Air Force forces dropped a few high-explosive and fire bombs at several points in Western Germany. No damage was caused to military or war-important objectives. . . . German night fighters and naval artillery shot down one British aircraft each."

This is, of course, the Nazis' tactful way of referring to the very heavy raids carried out during the night of May 3 on Cologne, Essen and Dusseldorf. Cologne received the brunt of the attack, and this important German city had its first taste of the Royal Air Force's newest and deadliest bombs—a single one of which, two nights previously, had turned the whole of one quarter of Bremen into a heap of ruins. Despite the Nazi claim to have destroyed two British raiders, the whole of the Royal Air Force's night operations on May 3 (when objectives in Norway, Holland and France were also bombed) were carried out without the loss of a single plane.

It is significant that the same German bulletin, in reporting the heavy Nazi raids on Merseyside that night, makes no mention of the destruction of a record number (16) of German bombers.

Tell-Tale Tail-Piece

On April 29, Berlin incautiously quoted a French Socialist newspaper for the assertion that German naval and aerial operations during March had destroyed "more than 750,000 tons of British shipping." Had Berlin forgotten that its own claim for that month was 718,000 tons, some 32,000 tons less than the figure to which it now gave its blessing? The truth is that British, Allied and neutral shipping losses for March totalled 394,000 tons.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Food and Fables

A typical example of the Nazi mendacity occurred on April 29, when Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani broadcast invented "a reliable source" as stating that (*a*) Australia had refused to supply foodstuffs to British troops in North Africa, and (*b*) that food would be sent from India and cost would be debitable to the Indian exchequer. The true position is that in Egypt only rations for troops from India are being provided from the resources of India. These indigenous items of foodstuffs are what the troops would normally consume in this country, and therefore their provision has no effect on the market rates in India. The cost of all rations despatched to theatres of war is debitable to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and is not paid for by the Indian public. And, finally, Australia continues to despatch rations for both the British and Imperial Troops in the Middle East. No question of refusal has ever arisen.

On May 1 the Nazi broadcast in Hindustani and Persian quoted the Tokyo paper *Nichi* as saying that Britain was experiencing increasing shortage of food. No one denies the fact that in war time a wise husbanding of the nation's resources is imperative. Apart from that, the food situation in Britain continues to be satisfactory. Energy-giving foods like milk, cheese, flour and other things made with flour are not rationed at all. An increased consumption of milk is advocated, and children up to five years of age are entitled to one pint of

milk a day at half price. Moreover, even cooked meats do not form part of the rations and can be bought and sold without coupons.

American Aid to Britain

The German broadcast in Persian quoted, on April 27, a Portuguese paper as stating that American aid to Britain will not able to reach its destination. It is noteworthy that Mr. Cordell Hull, the American Secretary of State, declared on April 25 : " Ways must be found to ensure that aid to Britain reaches its destination in the shortest possible time and at the maximum capacity." President Roosevelt also declared on April 26, that American " Neutrality patrols " would be extended further and further into the Atlantic. Finally, the United States Ambassador in Buenos Aires, addressing the local British Society, stated : " These supplies will reach their destination. You have our President's word and he speaks for a united and determined people." In spite of the Nazi bluster, the Germans themselves have betrayed their uneasiness over these utterances. The *Voelkischer Boebachter* says that they put " everything said previously by official war-mongers in the shade. Both speakers acted as though the two European dictators were in full march against the peaceful United States." This is exactly what President Roosevelt and his people do believe.

Hunt for Indian Reactions

The Nazis in their Hindustani broadcast of May 2 appear to be most anxious to invent Indian reactions to the military events in North Africa and the Balkans. They talk of communal riots which are described as a revolutionary movement and, in the same breath, they refer to industrial disputes which they themselves admit to have been caused by disagreement over the question of wages. How a dispute over wages and communal riots can be connected with events in North Africa and the Balkans, only the Nazis can explain.

Australia's Fight

The German broadcasts in Hindustani and Persian repeated, on April 29, the calumny that Britain was sacrificing Australian soldiers for her own selfish interests. The Australian reply to this taunt was given by Mr. Fadden, the acting Prime Minister, who, launching a win-the-war rally in Sydney Town Hall, declared : " This is an opportunity to give the lie to the German propagandists who are saying that there is disunity between Australia and Britain ". Speaking for Labour, the Deputy Federal Labour Leader, Mr. Forde, proclaimed the labour attitude as complete and indissoluble unity with the Allies.

Shipping Losses.

Taking advantage of the fact that the British Admiralty has decided to publish shipping losses once a month, instead of every week, the Nazis have started making most extravagant claims. In their Hindustani broadcast of May 4 they declared that in April alone one million tons of British shipping was destroyed in the Atlantic. The British decision, of course, was prompted by the consideration that it was becoming increasingly difficult to present accurate figures week by week and also that their more frequent publication would help the enemy. The Germans, on the other hand, have never published their own shipping losses, which have been lately very heavy. During the week ended April 23, more than 42,000 tons of German shipping was sunk or damaged in enemy waters from Norway to France, but the German Admiralty, as usual, said not a word about it.

Baulked in Iraq

Baulked of their designs in Iraq, the Nazis in their Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of May 4, claim that Britain violated the Anglo-Iraq treaty and also that all the Arab nations are opposed to Britain. Considering that the Nazi agent Rashid Ali Gailani could not but agree to the landing of the first contingent of British troops, his objection to the arrival of a second contingent was utterly specious and such action as the British had to take was in the most literal conformity with the terms of the Anglo-Iraq treaty of 1930. The attitude of the Arab nations has been expressed by the President of the Arab National League in the United States, who says " There can be no future for the Arab world under Hitler." He further appeals to all Iraq and all other Arab states to maintain traditional good relations with Great Britain and to take steps to adjust all differences by means of direct negotiations with British representatives and the Arab world.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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